

THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

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lined from one end to the other with a triple row of Parisian ladies of the middle class : nothing could be compared to the variegated scene presented by that assemblage of ladies, whose youthful bloom shone forth more dazzling than their elegant attire.

A balustrade extended along both sides of the gallery, in order to prevent any one from passing beyond a certain line, and the middle of this fine edifice was thus free and unobstructed, so as to admit of a passage for the *cortege* which moved along, and afforded a feast to the eyes as far as the very altar. The vast *salon* at the end of the gallery, where the exhibition of paintings generally took place, had been converted into a chapel. Its circuit was lined by a triple row of splendidly ornamented boxes, filled with the most elegant and distinguished ladies then in Paris. The Grand Master of the Ceremonies assigned to the persons composing the *cortege* their proper places as they arrived in the chapel. The strictest order was observed during the whole of this ceremony. Mass was performed by his Eminence Cardinal Fesch, after which the marriage ceremony took place. — *Memoirs of the Due de Rovigo*, tome iv. p. 280.¹

¹ For many interesting details, most admirably written, respecting Bonaparte's divorce from Josephine, and the circumstances that immediately preceded the divorce, see the *Memoirs of the Duchesse d'Abrantes*, vol. iii, chap. xvii.